

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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HERITAGE FOUNDATION STRESSES NEED FOR BLACK AND WHITE UNITY

Theodore Taylor, Director of the recently formed Heritage Foundation, in a recent press release, stressed the need for black and white Americans to keep in mind their common goals and objectives and to resist the influences which would destroy their unity by pitting black against white. "We must bear in mind," he said, "that the problems of the ghetto are not exclusively the problems of Afro-Americans, but are problems which should concern every American, black or white."

"Many white Americans," he further stated, "are aware of the problems of the poor of our society, and are earnestly seeking to change present conditions. Throughout history, from slavery to the present day, there have been white Americans who have struggled side by side with black to right social wrongs. Some have given their lives to the cause. Black people need to remind themselves of this. By lumping all white Americans together and looking upon them as the enemy, attention and energies are diverted from the real problems which exist. Simply to place blame, whether real or imagined, does not serve to solve the problems of poor housing, unemployment, discrimination, etc."

"White Americans, on the other hand," he stated, "must bear in mind that the struggle of the Afro-American for equality, opportunity and dignity is a just cause, and that in his efforts to better his conditions he cannot help but develop feelings of frustration and bitterness. The white American must not allow outbursts of emotion in the form of riots, and anti-white statements by certain black leaders, to cause him to withdraw from the struggle. A strong coalition between black and white is needed today, as it has never been needed before, for the social problems which exist cannot be solved by black alone, nor by white alone."

Through Heritage programs of Afro-American religious music, jazz, African dancers and drummers, films and speakers, often involving performers from the ghetto itself, the Heritage Foundation seeks to make white and black Americans aware of the contributions of the Afro-American to American history and culture. The narration for these programs serves to make them educational as well as entertaining. Stress is also made on the contributions of white Americans to the struggle of the Negro, from the time of the white Abolitionist to the present-day Civil Rights marcher.

The Foundation feels that programs of this type can do much to break down barriers between groups of Americans, and to bring about an awareness of a common American heritage, as well as common goals and objectives. Persons desiring to become members of the organization, or seeking information about Heritage programs, are invited to write The Heritage Foundation, P. O. Box 69, Somerset, New Jersey 08873.

*** (Due to the subject matter of this release, and the possibility of misinterpretation, we would appreciate your publishing it in its entirety. Thank you.)